

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003
4

As Engrossed: H3/17/03

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2823

5 By: Representatives Medley, Biggs
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE A VACCINATION PROGRAM FOR FIRST
10 RESPONDERS TO BIOTERRORIST ATTACKS; AND FOR OTHER
11 PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

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16 AN ACT TO CREATE A VACCINATION PROGRAM
17 FOR FIRST RESPONDERS TO BIOTERRORIST
18 ATTACKS.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 13, is amended to add an
25 additional subchapter to read as follows:

26 20-13-1201. Definitions.

27 As used in this subchapter:

28 (1) "Bioterrorism" means the intentional use of any microorganism,
29 virus, infectious substance, or biological product that may be engineered as
30 a result of biotechnology or any naturally occurring or bioengineered
31 component of any microorganism, virus, infectious substance, or biological
32 product, to cause or attempt to cause death, disease, or other biological
33 malfunction in any living organism;

34 (2) "Department" means the Department of Health;

35 (3) "Director" means the Director of the Department of Health; and

36 (4) "Disaster locations" means any geographical location where a



1 bioterrorism attack, terrorist attack, catastrophic or natural disaster, or
2 other emergency occurs; and

3 (5) "First responders" means state and local law enforcement
4 personnel, fire department personnel, and emergency medical personnel who
5 will be deployed to bioterrorism attacks, terrorist attacks, catastrophic or
6 natural disasters and emergencies.

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8 20-13-1202. Vaccination program for first responders to bioterrorism
9 attacks.

10 (a) The Department of Health shall offer a vaccination program for
11 first responders who may be exposed to infectious diseases while deployed to
12 disaster locations.

13 (b) Participation in the vaccination program shall be voluntary
14 by the first responders, except for first responders who are classified as
15 having occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens as defined by the
16 Occupational Safety and Health Administration Standard contained in 29 CFR
17 1910.10300, as in effect on January 1, 2003, who shall be required to take
18 the designated vaccinations or otherwise required by law.

19 (c) The department shall notify first responders of the
20 availability of the vaccination program and shall provide first responders
21 with educational materials on ways to prevent exposure to infectious disease.

22 (d) The department may contract with county and local health
23 departments, not-for-profit home health care agencies, hospitals, and
24 physicians to administer a vaccination program for first responders.

25 (e)(1) This section shall be effective upon receipt of federal
26 funding, federal grants, or both for administering a first responders
27 vaccination program.

28 (2) Upon receipt of federal funding, the department shall make
29 available the vaccines required for first responders under this section.

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31 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
32 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that first responders to a
33 bioterrorism attack may be subjected to vaccine-preventable diseases and the
34 first responders are in need of vaccinations to protect them against vaccine-
35 preventable diseases in view of a bioterrorism attack and it is essential to
36 the welfare of the State of Arkansas and its citizens to protect its first

1 responders against a bioterrorism attack. Therefore, an emergency is
2 declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the
3 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective
4 on:

5 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

6 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
7 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
8 bill; or

9 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
10 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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12 */s/ Medley, et al*
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